

On November 11th, Veterans' Day, Americans pay solemn respects to the men and women in uniform who have served faithfully through peace, war, and now terror. Even though many have defined the present war on terrorism as uncharacteristic, the enemies are substantially the same. They are evil people who would attempt to change America's policies through fear and intimidation. History is replete with such tyrants.

Even after years of relative peace, the American military is the envy of the world. It is the best trained, the most technologically advanced, and the best equipped. Their cause has always been just. Without America's veterans, we would not have a nation worth defending today.

Yes, the challenge posed by the barbarians of terror is no match for the strength of our military, but it is also inferior to the spirit of the American people. This nation has not forgotten the heroism of its veterans. It cannot and will not ignore their contributions. This is what Veterans' Day is all about.

While we live in the most prosperous and blessed nation on earth, the events of September 11th are a solemn reminder that our struggle is not yet over. On November 11th, just one year ago, most Americans gathered and thanked God for giving our nation peace. From Him, America's veterans drew the full measure of courage during times of greatest peril.

Thanks to America's veterans, the children of tomorrow will give thanks again for living in a great nation at peace. The next generation will be part of a country that will not be intimidated by terrorism. They will inherit an America which refused to look the other way when confronted by evil.

On the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month, of 1918 the soldiers of "The Great War" said goodbye to battlefields with names like Flanders, Verdun, and Ardennes. Many believed WWI would be the "war to end all wars." Unfortunately, they were perhaps, too optimistic, for aggression has been displaced.

At this time in our history, Americans no longer have the luxury of ignoring the price of liberty. The men and women at the Pentagon, the World Trade Center, and those who fight on land, sea, and air throughout the world have reminded all of us that we have all inherited a sacred privilege.

In a letter to the mother of fallen soldiers, Lincoln prayed comfort for the families of those who laid "so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom." As much as our thoughts and prayers are with those who have already been lost and the legions more who are entering this fight, each and every American should also turn their thoughts to those families who remain behind.

This year especially, as the nation celebrates Veterans' Day, it is important to give thanks and to take inspiration from the great sacrifices of the brave men and women who have delivered, and are today protecting our mighty nation. In commemorating the achievements of America's veterans, we should recommit our own lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor to maintenance of liberty—just as the veterans we honor have so nobly done.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT AND RECOGNITION OF THE DETROIT ECONOMIC SUMMIT

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2001

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to call the House's attention to an important event that will take place next week in the heart of Michigan—the Detroit Economic Summit. On November 14–15, 2001, representatives of a variety of senior officials from Arab countries and political organizations, Michigan-based companies, and the leadership and rank-and-file members of the Arab American and community organizations in the Detroit and Dearborn area will assemble for a series of events devoted to promoting trade and economic ties between the United States and the countries of the Near East.

The Summit is being spearheaded by the American Arab Chamber of Commerce in Dearborn, which has worked hard to draw in the talents of like-minded organizations, businesses and institutions such as the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce, the CMS Energy Corporation, the Detroit Medical Center, the Ford Motor Company, and others. The Summit will feature the participation of the Secretary General of the Arab League, His Excellency Amre Moussa, who is leading a delegation consisting of the distinguished Ambassadors of the Arab countries. Working collectively, and drawing from their deep experience in both politics and commerce, the organizers and participants in these events are all working for a common, and in my view, very important objective: establishing the Detroit/Dearborn area as the gateway for American trade, investment and commerce with the Near East region.

As many of our colleagues know, Mr. Speaker, the Near East region holds a vast wealth of potential as an investment destination and trading partner for businesses, financial institutions and investors from the United States. Many of the governments of the region have made significant strides in adopting clearer and more transparent trade, investment and regulatory regimes and have made corresponding efforts to privatize state-owned industries and open up their economies. These efforts have helped to diversify and increase the levels of economic interaction between the United States and the region, and with the concerted efforts of those who are participating in the Summit, there is good cause to anticipate further growth and expansion.

The promotion of trade and investment is important not only for its impact on economic growth, employment, and standards of living in the United States and the Near East. Stronger economic ties also bring forth associated benefits, such as a greater appreciation of cultural and religious distinctions of the American and Arab peoples. As economic activity extends across borders in the region and with the United States, the prospects for peace, stability, and common understanding are likewise advanced. In times such as these, I trust that all of us will appreciate the importance of achieving these objectives.

As the home to hundreds of thousands of Arab Americans, the Detroit area is naturally

suited to serve as a gateway for commerce between the United States and the Arab states. At the same time, Michigan-based companies are leading the way in increasing the volume of two-way trade and investment: everything from large-scale endeavors like CMS Energy's pioneering work in producing power and desalinated water in the Arabian Gulf or Ford's exports to the region, to small-scale imports of goods and wares from the region to the Detroit area.

Much like Miami has become the hub for economic ties between the United States and Latin America, The Detroit/Dearborn area is well on the path toward establishing itself as America's bridge to the Arab World. I urge my colleagues to join me welcoming the participants of the Economic Summit to Michigan and wishing them well as they continue with their vital work. I would also ask that the House acknowledge the hard work and vision of the organizers of this event, the Arab American Chamber of Commerce.

HUMAN-RIGHTS ACTIVIST DETAINED IN INDIA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, the Indian government recently detained Mrs. Paramjit Kaur Khalra, widow of a human-rights activist and a human-rights activist in her own right, along with six other human-rights activists, including the Vice President of the Punjab Human rights Organization (PHRO), Kirpal Singh Randhawa. They were apparently arrested under TADA, the repressive "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act," which expired in 1995. Now India has promulgated an even worse law, known as POTO, which would make advocating the breakup of India a "terrorist offense" and would allow the arrest of journalists for publishing information critical of the government. Is this the kind of law promulgated in a democratic and free society?

You may remember, Mr. Speaker, that the President of the PHRO, Judge Ajit Singh Bains, testified several years ago before the Human Rights Caucus of the House and was very impressive. After his testimony, you could have no doubt that Punjab under Indian rule is a very tyrannical state.

Mrs. Khalra is the widow of Jaswant Singh Khalra, who exposed the Indian government's policy of mass, secret cremations of Sikhs. This policy has been called "worse than a genocide" by the Punjab High Court. For exposing it, Mr. Khalra was kidnapped from his house in Amritsar in September 1995 and tortured to death. None of the police officers responsible has ever been punished. Now Mrs. Khalra's efforts to continue her husband's work have gotten her arrested. It is clear that she and the other human-rights activists were arrested to prevent their participation in political events and stop public protest. India still believes, after all the bloodshed, that it can intimidate the Sikhs and other minorities such as the Christians of Nagaland, the Muslims of Kashmir, and others into submission to Hindu supremacy.

It is not a good time to be a widow in India, Mr. Speaker. First the Indian government tried